

March 19, 2010

**TO: MAFMIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE AND MANAGERS**

FR: MARCUS MARSH, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS MANAGER

RE: WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE REPORT

It was another crazy week of committee hearings going on for hours as Legislators passed their bills out of committees before the second committee deadline which is today. With this committee deadline all policy committees are done for the 2010 Legislative Session unless the Rules Committee would permit them to meet for a special reason. Only committees dealing with taxes and spending will continue to meet.

This session seems to be a session that has had a lot of bills introduced or amendments offered in committee, which to me seem strange, and one wonders where they came from. This week Senator Mee Moua (D-St. Paul) offered an amendment to stop the gang database law enforcement uses because it is an invasion of privacy. Thankfully the amendment didn't pass but the Senator said she is going to continue to pursue this.

Monday Governor Pawlenty released his letter to Legislative Leaders in regards to which projects he had line item vetoed before he signed the remaining Bonding Bill. The Bonding Bill sent to the Governor was \$1 billion dollars and he reduced it to \$680 million dollars. There were a lot of grim faced legislators having their projects vetoed. One of the consistent areas of vetoes was convention centers and cultural centers in various cities around the state.

The Department of Commerce Omnibus Bill S.F. 2839 Chief Author Senator Linda Scheid (D-Brooklyn Park) passed the Senate Commerce Committee on Thursday. There were some concerns with a couple of items under MS 65A that were removed from the bill. The bill passed and was sent to the Senate floor.

The Storm Chaser Bill S.F. 1886 Chief Author Senator Kathy Saltzman (D-Woodbury) was passed in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Thursday and was sent to the Senate floor. Both the House and Senate Bills are now waiting floor action.

S.F. 2704 the "nonrecourse civil litigation funding" bill which I have written about was heard in the Senate Judiciary today. Senator Linda Scheid (D-Brooklyn Park) is the Chief Author. The bill was defeated on a four to four tie vote. The House companion bill H.F. 3052 Chief Author Representative Jim Abeler (R-Anoka) is waiting for action on the House floor.

The 2010 Washington Visit (Congressional Contact Program) is coming up fast. May 19 and 20 which is earlier than past years. The **deadline** for room reservations is **April 15** and in talking with NAMIC personnel it appears rooms are at a premium this year, so you need to get your registration forms in soon.